specific schemes like 'National Horticulture Mission', 'Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm & Maize (ISOPOM)', Technology Mission on Cotton', 'Micro Irrigation', 'Development and Distribution of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds'. Besides, under other Centrally Sponsored Schemes subsumed under 'Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme', subsidies are also made available to the farmers.

In the Union Budget 2007-08, a mission for pulses has been announced for scaling up the production of breeder, foundation and certified seeds. It is targeted to double the production of certified seeds within a period of three years, further, restoration of water bodies and measures to arrest the depletion of ground water has been emphasized in the budget 2007-08 in addition to revamping of the 'Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme' which will create an additional potential of 9,00,000 hectares for irrigation.

Development of forest villages

*177. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of developing forest villages;

(b) whether Government have received proposals for the development of forest villages;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly from Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh;

(d) the funds allocated/utilized therefor, State-wise; and

(e) the number of villages developed, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Recognizing that conservation and development of forests is related to the welfare of the forest dependent communities, the Government of India is supporting projects for the development of forest villages aimed at improving the quality of life of people therein by providing basic minimum facilities and services like food, safe drinking water, health care, primary education, approach roads, other infrastructure facilities etc.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The Govt, of India provides assistance for the development of forest villages under the Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) Scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The proposals received from the States are recommended by the Ministry of Environment & Forests to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for approval as per prescribed procedure and for release of funds. As per the information provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the State-wise details of funds released are given in the Statement. (See below)

(e) As per the information provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, funds have been released for the development of 1832 villages during 2005-06 and 347 villages during 2006-07.

Statement

Release and Expenditure for Development of Forest Villages (Tenth Plan) (As on 26.02.2007)

(Rs. in lakh)

SI. No.	State	No. of villages for which projects approved during 2005-06	Amount Released during 2005-06	No. of villages for which projects approved during 2006-07	Amount Released during 2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	373	4059.00	—	366.00
2.	Chhattisgarh	343	4359.00	61	2338.67
3.	Gujarat	199	1979.00	—	663.00
4.	Jharkhand	21	130.00	—	129.70
5.	Maharashtra	Nil	0.00	—	0.00
6.	Meghalaya	Nil	0.00	23	390.71

1 2	3	4	5	6
7. Madhya Pradesh	679	6191.00	143	6372.56
8. Mizoram	27	203.00	58	1072.50
9. Orissa	20	157.00	—	133.46
10. Tripura	Nil	0.00	62	930.00
11. Uttarakhand	Nil	0.00	—	0.00
12. Uttar Pradesh	Nil	0.00	—	0.00
13. West Bengal	170	2104.00	—	699.00
TOTAL	1832	19182.00	347	13095.60

Single-gauge network system

*178. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the action plan of the Railways to have single-gauge (broad gauge) network system in the country, with a view to unify the whole country;

(b) what is the current metre gauge and narrow gauge routes in the country, *inter-alia* that is falling on the ECoR; and

(c) the time-frame with which the narrow gauge/metre gauge routes on the ECoR would be converted to broad gauge system?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Project Unigauge was taken up in 1992 under which it was decided to convert selected routes from Metre Gauge/Narrow Gauge into Broad Gauge. Under this Scheme, conversion of 12207 kms has already been completed upto 31.03.06 and 1225 kms is targeted for completion during 2006-07. Further, conversion works have been taken up on about 7200 kms. There is no plan to convert all the Metro Gauge/Narrow Gauge lines to broad gauge. However, as announced in the budget 2007-08, efforts would be made to convert majority of Metre Gauge lines to broad gauge during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.